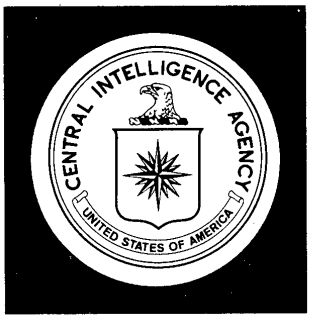
Declassified in Part - Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2016/06/14 : CIA-RDP79T00936A011500010074-8



The President's Daily Brief

24 March 1973

45

~~*Top Secre*~~25X1

Declassified in Part - Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2016/06/14 : CIA-RDP79T00936A011500010074-8

Declassified in Part - Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2016/06/14 : CIA-RDP79T00936A011500010074-8

Exempt from general
declassification schedule of E.O. 11652
exemption category 5B(1),(2),(3)
declassified only on approval of
the Director of Central Intelligence

Declassified in Part - Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2016/06/14 : CIA-RDP79T00936A011500010074-8

Declassified in Part - Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2016/06/14 : CIA-RDP79T00936A011500010074-8

25X1

25X1

25X1

25X1

25X1

25X1

25X1

25X1

25X1

25X1

25X1

25X1

Declassified in Part - Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2016/06/14 : CIA-RDP79T00936A011500010074-8

Declassified in Part - Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2016/06/14 : CIA-RDP79T00936A011500010074-8

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

24 March 1973

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

It appears that the North Vietnamese 308th Division has gone home from South Vietnam. President Thieu plans an amnesty for some political prisoners. *(Page 1)*

25X1

[redacted] Iraq [redacted] 25X1

[redacted] *(Page 2)* 25X1

Egypt is "cooling" its relations with the US. *(Page 3)* 25X1

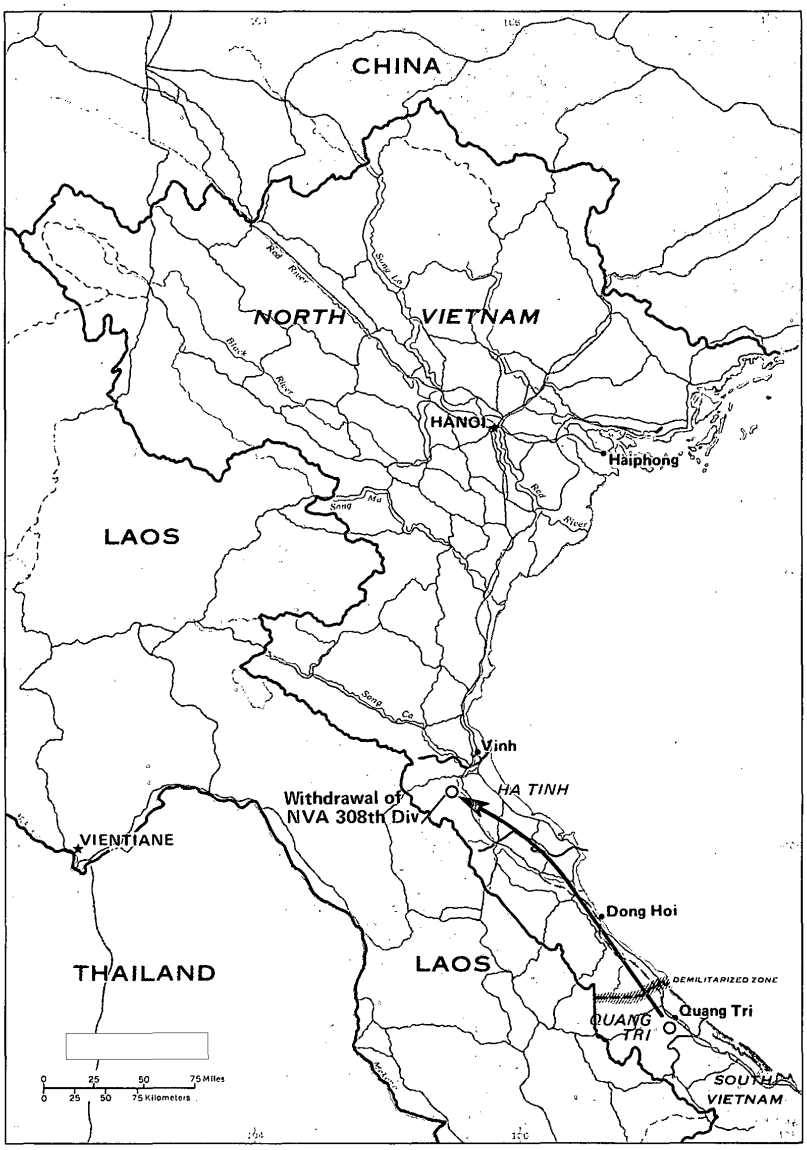
The EC Commission has taken a step away from the high farm support prices to which the US has long objected. *(Page 4)*

President Allende was not prepared for the sudden resignation of Chile's cabinet, and will have difficulty organizing a new one. *(Page 5)*

Prospects for China's winter grain crops appear favorable. *(Page 6)*

Declassified in Part - Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2016/06/14 : CIA-RDP79T00936A011500010074-8

Declassified in Part - Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2016/06/14 : CIA-RDP79T00936A011500010074-8



554257 3-73 CIA

25X1

Declassified in Part - Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2016/06/14 : CIA-RDP79T00936A011500010074-8

Declassified in Part - Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2016/06/14 : CIA-RDP79T00936A011500010074-8

VIETNAM

Recently available communications intelligence indicates that the headquarters and parts of three regiments of the North Vietnamese 308th Division have moved from Quang Tri Province into North Vietnam. Intercepts locate these units in Ha Tinh Province, about 150 miles north of the Demilitarized Zone. The division's headquarters has been in Ha Tinh since January.

The 308th is the first regular army division known to have returned to North Vietnam since the Communist spring offensive a year ago. There are still elements of four North Vietnamese divisions in Quang Tri.

* * *

About 300 political prisoners will be amnestied next Monday, [redacted] 25X1
[redacted] Nearly half of those to be freed were 25X1
chosen from a list submitted by a leader of the An Quang Buddhists.

Thieu would like to improve relations with the An Quang Buddhists. The amnesty would follow his attendance earlier this month at the funeral of an An Quang leader--a gesture which was well-received. Nevertheless, the An Quang sect has a number of serious grievances against the government, and their suspicions of Thieu will not be significantly lessened by his act of clemency alone.

Former presidential candidate Truong Dinh Dzu and former Lower House deputy Tran Ngoc Chau are also among those to be released next week.

Neither has a political base in South Vietnam, but their cases have been widely and sympathetically publicized in the Western press. Thieu is reported to have said that Chau will have a choice of going to North Vietnam or staying in the South under restrictions.

The amnesties on Monday probably are intended to detract attention from the Communist campaign for the release of all civilian detainees. The release of such a small number of civilians will not deter the Communists, who are demanding freedom for tens of thousands of political prisoners.

Declassified in Part - Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2016/06/14 : CIA-RDP79T00936A011500010074-8

Declassified in Part - Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2016/06/14 : CIA-RDP79T00936A011500010074-8

25X1

25X1

25X1

25X1

25X1

25X1

25X1

25X1

25X1

Declassified in Part - Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2016/06/14 : CIA-RDP79T00936A011500010074-8

Declassified in Part - Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2016/06/14 : CIA-RDP79T00936A011500010074-8

USSR-IRAQ

25X1

25X1

25X1

25X1

25X1

25X1

25X1

25X1

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

Declassified in Part - Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2016/06/14 : CIA-RDP79T00936A011500010074-8

Declassified in Part - Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2016/06/14 : CIA-RDP79T00936A011500010074-8

EGYPT

Presidential adviser Hafiz Ismail yesterday angrily rejected US Interests Chief Greene's contention that Arab governments should not support Palestinian terrorists. Among other things, Ismail said:

--Egypt will not bow to the US "ultimatum" and turn away from the Palestinians.

--The US has "let Egypt down repeatedly" and is now rejecting a solution in terms of UN Security Council Resolution 242.

--For now, Egypt will be able to live with another downturn in relations with the US. Henceforth, Greene should contact the Egyptian Government through the Foreign Ministry, rather than through Ismail's office.

The Egyptian press in recent days has focused on alleged US promises of more fighter aircraft for Israel. Press charges have also been leveled that the "spy plane" incident off Libya on Wednesday is further proof of "US-Israel collusion."

Such a propaganda campaign is designed to increase distrust of the US and seems aimed at ensuring that such topics will be discussed at coming meetings of the Arab League and the Arab chiefs of staff.

The net result of all this will be to mute Egypt's recent emphasis on diplomacy. Nevertheless, Egypt would still react with interest to any US initiative aimed at resolving the impasse in the Middle East.

Declassified in Part - Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2016/06/14 : CIA-RDP79T00936A011500010074-8

Declassified in Part - Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2016/06/14 : CIA-RDP79T00936A011500010074-8

EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

The modest increase proposed this week by the EC Commission for 1973-74 farm prices is a step toward less dependence on high support prices to which the US has long objected. The proposals are intended to encourage livestock over grain production and to restore the common prices disrupted by recent changes in exchange rates.

The proposals may face tough going next month in the Council despite increasing sentiment in the EC for holding down food prices and farm program costs. Italy opposes any increase in EC prices, while France is under farmer pressures to get higher dairy prices than the Commission has proposed. West German Agricultural Minister Ertl has said privately he could accept the proposals, although German farmers have bitterly denounced them.

Beyond the immediate debate on prices, the Commission also intends to get the Council to review the entire Common Agricultural Policy later this year. It wants eventually to substitute direct income payments to farmers for part of the support they now receive through market prices.

EC Farm Commissioner Lardinois told US officials this week that over the longer term, he could foresee the Community abolishing measures that currently restrict some US agricultural exports. He noted, however, this would have to be a gradual process. Lardinois also mentioned that the Commission is thinking about guaranteeing outsiders access to the EC market.

Declassified in Part - Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2016/06/14 : CIA-RDP79T00936A011500010074-8

Declassified in Part - Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2016/06/14 : CIA-RDP79T00936A011500010074-8

CHILE

President Allende's cabinet reorganization will be difficult. The major complications will be the divisive struggle within his Popular Unity coalition and the political role of the armed forces.

The struggle between the Communists and the radical wing of the Socialists probably brought on the cabinet's sudden offer to resign on March 22, before Allende had completed plans for the reorganization of the government. The small parties that had served as a buffer between the two large parties were nearly wiped out in the elections, providing a further complication.

Military participation in the cabinet has most recently provided this buffer, but the continuation of the military in this role is itself now a controversial issue. The armed forces are divided over remaining in the government. Radical Socialists reportedly are pressing for the ouster of the military as their price for remaining in the cabinet, while the Communists would like the officers to stay, for a time at least. Neither the Communists nor Allende will permit the coalition to disintegrate over the issue.

Declassified in Part - Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2016/06/14 : CIA-RDP79T00936A011500010074-8

Declassified in Part - Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2016/06/14 : CIA-RDP79T00936A011500010074-8

NOTES

China: Prospects for the winter grain crops appear generally favorable, contrary to recent press reports. As is customary in China following a poor harvest, winter grain acreage was increased substantially last year, and weather conditions since then have been favorable in most parts of the country. A successful harvest still depends on continuation of good weather during the unstable spring and on only limited loss to insects.

USSR-Somalia: [redacted] 25X1

[redacted] 25X1

International Oil: The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), representing the Persian Gulf states, Libya, and Nigeria, is seeking increased payments from Western oil companies to compensate for the devaluation of the US dollar. Agreements signed last year between the companies and the producers entitle the above OPEC states to increased payments of only six percent. OPEC will press for the full ten percent of the devalued dollar and will probably get it. Such a four-percent increase in per barrel prices will result in a very small hike in retail prices of refined products in those countries that devalued.

Uruguay: Military leaders last night pre-empted broadcasting on radio and television to denounce the government's "moral deterioration" and congressional obstruction of the armed forces' economic recovery plans. This move appears to be a step toward removal of some of the military's sharpest critics and possibly the closing of congress. President Bordaberry could easily be forced from office in the turmoil. [redacted] 25X1

[redacted] key generals have already decided that Bordaberry must go, but have not yet been able to agree among themselves on a successor. 25X1

Declassified in Part - Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2016/06/14 : CIA-RDP79T00936A011500010074-8

Declassified in Part - Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2016/06/14 : CIA-RDP79T00936A011500010074-8

Top Secret

Declassified in Part - Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2016/06/14 : CIA-RDP79T00936A011500010074-8